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SOVIETS DEMAND POLES BE INVITED TO S.F. MEET

Britain, However, Turns Down Request; Baruch, Winant Confer With Churchill

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 31.—Moscow demanded today that the Warsaw Polish Provisional Government be represented at the United Nations Conference on International Organization at San Francisco, and highly authoritative London sources said that the Soviet Union had bee informed that Britain could not accede to such a request, according to a London dispatch.

London sources declared without equivocation that the British position was that Poland could obtain representation only by complying with the Crimea Conference agreement that the Polish Provisional Government be expanded to include wider representation, the dispatch said. Prospect of such an action before the April 25 conference opening date appeared very slight.

The Soviet demand, broadcast by the Moscow radio, said that the failure of the United States and Britain to recognize the Warsaw group was no excuse for withholding an invitation, and that an "early reply" was expected to the Soviet request, the dispatch continued.

Bernard M. Baruch, special representative of President Roosevelt, and U.S. Ambassador to London John G. Winant conferred today with Prime Minister Churchill, although the nature of their conversations remained unknown, and it appeared inevitable that the question would be raised concerning the Soviet demand on the Polish representation.

Another subject probably on the agenda was the control and economic future of Germany, the dispatch further disclosed.

For the third successive day, there was an abnormal flow of Government communications between Washington and London, most of them from Wrshington, the dispatch said.

The Moscow radio declared that a re-organization of the Polish Provisional Government "cannot be effected in the near future." Both the Warsaw group and the Polish Government in exile in London had been demanding for seats at the San Francisco Conference.

According to the same radio, the Soviet Union pointed out that the non-recognition of the Polish Provisional Government by the United States and Britain should bring no objection to their attendance at San Francisco since the Soviet Union agreed to the participation of India, Bolivia, Paraguay, and others with whom the Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations.

Demands Early Reply

Domei

LISBON, March 31.—The Soviet demand for the Warsaw Polish Provisional Government representation and three assembly votes for the Soviets at the San Francisco Conference placed tough problems today in the path of adjustment before the meeting, according to a Washington dispatch.

Moscow vigorously insisted on an "early reply" from Britain and the United States to her latest claim—a seat for the Provisional Polish Government at next month's meeting of the United Nations, the dispatch said.

It would be impossible, Moscow declared, to reorganize in time the Soviet-sponsored Warsaw Government to include elements of the London Polish regime recognized by the two Western members of the "Big Three." The reorganization was agreed upon at Yalta but since it cannot be effectuated for the time being, the Soviets argued, the Warsaw group should get a San Francisco bid.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, Michigan Republican, a conference delegate who has interested himself in Polish affairs, declined to comment on the Soviet demand. Vandenberg indicated that it was a question which will be settled only by President Roosevelt and the State Department.

Senator Harold Burton, Ohio Republican, an exponent of all-out international cooperation for peace, said that he did not see how the American Government could sponsor an invitation to a Polish regime it does not recognize.

"I don't see how we could accept the representatives of one Government without some provision being made for attendance by the representatives of the other Government which we recognize," Burton said.

Stettinius Is Evasive

Domei

LISBON, March 31.—The White House announcement yesterday disclosing a secret Yalta agreement of the American and the Soviet requests for three votes each on the proposed world security organization received an immediate and extreme ly unfavorable reaction from Congressional and public circles in Washington, according to a dispatch from that city.

Since the conclusion of the Dumbarton Oaks conference there has been much speculation over the real intentions of Moscow in splitting up the Soviet Union into 16 autonomous Republics each to conduct its foreign affairs independently. One interpretation which has been prevailing in Washington was that Moscow desired to get additional representation on a new world league which must come into being after this war and in order to balance Britain which can count on sympathetic votes of her Dominions, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa.

American writers contended that if the Soviet Union would ask 16 votes, the United States would be entitled to 48 for each State in the Union. No one took these reports seriously and when the Soviet Yalta proposal for Ukrainian and White Russian representation was made known, it came like a political bombshell.

The problem of Chungking and France was immediately brought into the picture by observers who have been following the world security organization plans, says the dispatch. If the United States and the Soviet Union have three additional votes wouldn't Chungking and France be justified in asking for more than one? Furthermore, were Chungking and France advised previously of the secret Yalta agreement and if so, when? These were among the 32 written questions which were presented to Secretary of State Edward Stettinius today by the American correspondents.

Beginning his unique half hour press conference attended by 60 unusually insistent correspondents, Stettinius drew attention to the final sentence in yesterday's White House statement that "these questions at Yalta related to submission of a question to the San Francisco conference where the ultimate decision will be made." He then declared that he could not discuss the matter further although he knew that the correspondents had many questions on their minds. He reaffirmed his belief that the San Francisco Conference would be a success despite the unfavorable reception in Washington of the agreement on the extra votes since he retains a faith that "what we went to war about was not in vain."

The correspondents refused to be put off and insisted that even if Stettinius would not answer, the prepared list of questions should be read aloud and put on record. Stettinius consented and gave assurances that he would meet them and answer as many questions as possible at the press conference early next week.

Stettinius insisted that the extra vote agreement was not a decision but merely a proposal to be submitted for decision by a full United Nations conference and that the only decisions reached at Yalta concerned the prosecution of the war. However, he refused to comment when a reporter pointed out that the same thing could be said of the Yalta agreement on the voting procedure and the veto powers which were included in the statement issued at the conclusion of the Crimea Conference.

Though the reporters remained scrupulously polite throughout the press conference, it was evident that they were determined to secure answers to the questions occasioned by the Big Three secret agreement on extra votes. It is evident that adverse public reaction makes it imperative that the U.S. Government furnish some satisfactory explanation or face an irreparable damage to the prospects for success of the San Francisco Conference.

Predicts Meeting Failure

Domei

BERLIN, March 31.—Things are looking pretty bad concerning the United Nations Conference or International Conference at San Francisco, stated that spokesman of the Wilhelmstrasse, today. Such grave problems have cropped up, he said, that one is looking for an excuse to postpone the conference.

Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov's explanation that he could not go to San Francisco because of the settlement of the budget of his ministry was described by the spokesman as a "silly excuse."

"The San Francisco conference is threatening to blow up even before it really begins," he added. "The reason for this is the storm that has been called forth by the American-Russian secret agreement on additional Russian votes."

"Also the Polish question once again arose since Moscow was demanding that the Lublin Government be represented at the San Francisco Conference even before it was remodelled according to the decisions of the Yalta conference," he added. "If the committee of the Three Powers failed to bring about the formation of the Polish Government within four weeks, what is Europe to expect," the spokesman asked. "Moreover, the question is arising as to why the Pravda time and again was repeating its attacks against Spanish Chief of State General Francisco Franco, since the world is already sufficiently acquainted with Moscow's point of view. This only shows that Moscow is still trying to draw the Iberian peninsula likewise into her sphere of interest at the opportune time."

Capture of Ratibor Revealed by Stalin; Vienna Is Menaced

Domei

STOCKHOLM, March 31.—Marshal Josef Stalin in an order of the day issued in Moscow announced the capture of Ratibor on the southern tip of Silesia, according to a Moscow report. It is 18 miles from the Czechoslovakian industrial center of Moravska-Ostrava. The new Soviet offensive posed a threat to Vienna although other Red Army troops moving into Austria 52 miles from Vienna have come into contact with reinforced German lines.

BID TO FRISCO ASSEMBLY ACCEPTED BY 37 NATIONS

Peru, Yugoslavia Show No Sign Of Attending—London Regrets Molotov's Absence

Domei

LISBON, March 31.—U.S. Secretary of State Edward Stettinius told the press today that 37 Governments now have formally accepted the invitation to send representatives to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco on April 25, according to a Washington dispatch. The sponsoring Governments are the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and Chungking and those nations which have accepted are Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the Union of South Africa, Uruguay and Venezuela, the dispatch said.

The Provisional Government of French Republic had provisionally agreed to participate in the conference, the dispatch continued, which further disclosed that Peru and Yugoslavia have not accepted the invitation formally and the State Department has noted that they have neither appointed a delegation to attend the conference nor are in the process of doing so.

The British delegation will be led by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Anthony Eden and Council President and deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee and the principal delegates will be Viscount Cranborne, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs and leader of the House of Lords and Earl of Halifax, Ambassador in Washington, the dispatch disclosed. The junior delegates will be Parliamentary secretaries of various ministries.

The Australian delegation will be Francis Forde and Minister for External Affairs Herbert Vere Evatt with 16 Government officials and civic leaders as assistants, the dispatch further disclosed.

Among the other heads of delegations announced today are Dr. Jan Maszry, Czechoslovakia; Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts, Union of South Africa; and Prime Minister Peter Fraser, New Zealand, the dispatch concluded.

Molotov Not Going to S.F.

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, March 31.—The British Government announced today that it extremely regrets that the Soviet Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov will not attend the San Francisco conference, says a London report.

Other Secret Pacts Likely

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 31.—President Roosevelt is reported as being urged by his closest advisers to let down all bars of the Crimea Conference and any other secret agreements that might have been made, according to a Washington report. The latest disclosures of the "Big Three" agreement on voting in the proposed world assembly has raised speculation of possible other secret agreements.

Australians Reach London

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, March 31.—Australian Deputy Prime Minister Francis M. Forde and Dr. Herbert V. Evatt, Minister of External Affairs, arrived in London by plane today from Washington to attend the British Commonwealth conference, opening on Wednesday before going to the San Francisco meeting, according to a London report.

It was also announced that the Indian delegates to the San Francisco conference are expected in London over the weekend. They will also take part in the Commonwealth talk before leaving for San Francisco.

Two-Rank Promotions Are Won By 19 Heroes of Navy Air Force

Two-grade promotions for 19 Navy airmen including the late Lieutenant Commander Takehiko Chihaya were announced by the Navy Ministry under date of April 1.

The 19 heroes whose brilliant exploits were previously made public in citations and proclamations include the late Lieutenant Commander Chihaya who distinguished himself in a number of battles, including the Naval Battle off Hawaii, as commander of a Bomber Corps and who met a heroic end in June of last year while engaged in a scouting mission in the Mariana area. Members of the First Mitate Unit of the Special Attack Corps who carried out a successful raid on Saipan Island and the Second Kamikaze Special Attack Corps who rendered meritorious services in the inspiring ramming action in the Philippines are also among the honored heroes.

The Navy Ministry's announcement said:

"The undermentioned have been promoted as follows:

"Lieutenant Commanders Takehiko Chihaya and Takashig Egusa promoted Captain;

"Lieutenants Kimimoto Nagamine and Yasuhiro Shigematsu promoted Commander;

"Flight Warrant Officers Yoshio Goto and Yasunori Ono promoted Sublieutenant;

"Superior Flight Petty Officers Isotaka Kitagawa and Osamu Nishio promoted Second Sublieutenant.

"First Class Flight Petty Officers Wataru Ikeda, Hiroyuki Sumita, Susumu Azuma and Masando Kato promoted Flight Warrant Officer.

"Second Class Flight Petty Officers Tensei Aita and Matsunari Shijo promoted Superior Flight Petty Officer.

"Fighting Service Chief Seamen Seiji Niibori, Yuji Ueda, Teruyoshi Takahashi and Satoru Akishiro promoted First Class Flight Petty Officer."

Raided Aslito Base

Sublieutenant Omura and the 10 men under him raided the Aslito Airfield at Saipan to hit the B-29's there on November 27, last year, as members of the First Mitate Special Attack Unit. Penetrating the intense enemy anti-aircraft fire, the members of the unit made a low-level strafing attack on the airfield until their fuel was exhausted and fell in action after scoring big results. Their stirring deeds were proclaimed to all of the forces by Admiral Soemu Toyoda, Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet, on December 10, last year.

Lieutenant Commander Chihaya, flight commander of the X X Naval Air Unit, served with great distinction at the head of a bomber unit in frequent important operations, starting with the Sea Battle off Hawaii. Between the latter part of May and the earlier part of June, last year, he led a scout unit probing out the enemy vessels in the Marshalls, Admiralty Islands and the Solomons and contributed greatly to the operations. With the enemy attack on the Marianas in June, last year, the officer continued scouting operations and fell in action after serving with distinction.

Lieutenant Commander Egusa, flight commander of the X X Naval Air Unit, served with great merit at the head of an attack unit in frequent important operations, beginning with the Sea Battle of Hawaii, with burning fighting spirit and superb command. With the enemy invasion of the Marianas in June, last year, furious attacks were repeated against the enemy daily. After pounding the enemy terribly with an indomitable spirit despite the fact that attrition was climbing steeply, he fell in glorious action for the cause of his country.

Made Repeated Attacks

Lieutenant Shigematsu, flight commander of the X X Naval Air Unit, repeated furious daily attacks against the enemy during the invasion of the Marianas in June, last year. In midst of the heavy fighting, he exhibited superb commanding abilities and inflicted big losses on the enemy. He fell in combat while directing his efforts toward gaining air control.

Lieutenant Nagamine, commander of the XX Naval Air Unit and Flight Petty Officer Goto of the XX Naval Unit carried out scouting operations in the Marshalls, Admiralty Islands and the Solomons from the latter part of May and the early part of June, last year. They contributed greatly to the operations by their scouting actions in the important period. Their deeds were proclaimed to the entire forces by the Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Fleet on October 23, last year, together with the exploits of Lieutenant Commanders Chihaya and Egusa and Lieutenant Shigematsu.

Superior Flight Petty Officer Nishio of the XX Navy Air Corps was a scouting member for the late Commander Sachio Endo who is credited with the destruction of the greatest number of B-29's by a single man. Since November of last year, he either shot down or damaged as many as nine Mariana-based B-29's in the skies over Tokyo and Nagoya. Counterattacking an 11-plane formation of the 60 B-29 bombers which raided Nagoya on January 14, Superior Flight Petty Officer Nishio inflicted damage on more than two of the raiders but was killed by enemy bullets. In recognition of his distinguished service, a citation was granted him on January 26 by the Defense Commander.

First Class Flight Petty Officer Ikeda and Second Class Flight Petty Officer Aida, respectively took off from a Philippine base on October 29, last year, as members of the Second Kamikaze Special Attack Corps and fell for the cause of the nation after effective action in the Legaspi area.

SWEDISH ENVOY LEAVES

Bagge Returns Home From Tokyo, Was Oldest Minister Here

His Excellency M. Widar Bagge, the Swedish Minister in Tokyo, will leave for home this week via Siberia either by train or by plane. M. Bagge who is the oldest minister in the capital, came to Japan as Swedish Minister in March, 1937.

For two years, from March, 1928, he served at the Legation in Tokyo as First Secretary until his transfer to Shanghai as Consul General. From Shanghai M. Bagge was promoted to Counselor of the Swedish Embassy in Paris. In November, 1936, he was appointed Minister to Japan and arrived in this country in March the following year.

M. Bagge was decorated with the First Class Order of the Sacred Treasure by His Majesty the Emperor in March this year.

Swedish Minister Vidar Bagge who is leaving his post here called on Prime Minister General Kuniaki Koiso at the latter's official residence at 1:30 p.m. Saturday and tendered his farewell greetings.

GREEKS FAVOR REPUBLIC

Premier Clarifies Government's Stand At Press Interview

Special to the Nippon Times

ZURICH, March 30.—Greek Premier General Nicholas Plastiras at his press conference today stressed that he favors a republican form of Government for Greece, according to an Athens report.

He said that he would remain very true to his words not to intervene with matters related to questions of his regime in politics. "After my mission is accomplished," he stated, "I shall continue to fight for the Republic."

Many Buildings Damaged

Domei

STOCKHOLM, March 30.—Many historical buildings suffered considerably during the fighting in Athens, reported the Athens correspondent of the Manchester Guardian today, says a London report. Monumental buildings which did not suffer the slightest damage during the German occupation were severely hit after the Germans had left the town. The ELAS forces shelled the Pantheon and other venerable buildings in the Acropolis after the British had established observation posts there. The Pantheon was seriously damaged by three shells while traces of close range fighting were also left by innumerable rifle bullets. Moreover, in the southwestern passage of the Propylaeum valuable art works were destroyed.

Koo Reaches Washington

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 31.—Chungking Ambassador to London Wellington Koo, who is one of the members of the Chungking delegations to the United Nations Conference on International Organization to be held in San Francisco on April 25, arrived in Washington by plane today, according to a Washington report.

LANDING IS STARTED ON THREE MORE ISLES BY OKINAWA INVADER

Japanese Air, Sea Units Account for 15 More Enemy Warships, I.H.Q. Bares

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
3 p.m. April 1, 1945

"1—A part of the enemy forces around the main Okinawa Island commenced a landing on Kamiyamajima and Maejima on the morning of March 31 while the main enemy strength has begun landing forces on the southern sector of the main island since the morning of April 1.

"2—Among the war results obtained by our Air and Sea Forces against the enemy, warcraft that have become known later follow:

SUNK:
1 Aircraft Carrier
2 Cruisers
2 Destroyers
3 Warships of Unidentified Category

SUNK or DAMAGED:
1 Battleship or Cruiser

DAMAGED:
1 Battleship or Cruiser
2 Destroyers
2 Warships of Unidentified Category
1 Transport."

WAR MINISTRY DISCLOSES ARMY PERSONNEL SHIFTS

Prince Ri Gin Appointed to Military Council; Lt. Gen. Yasuda Heads Air Forces

His Highness Lieutenant General Prince Ri Gin has been appointed a member of the Military Council, it was announced by the War Ministry on Sunday.

Lieutenant General Takeo Yasuda, in the same announcement, was named Commander of the Air Forces while Lieutenant General Yoichi Tada was appointed Director of the Tama Army Technical Research Department.

Major General Ryuji Koike has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to His Imperial Majesty and Judiciary Lieutenant General Kiichi Fujii has been made Director of the Bureau of Judiciary Affairs of the War Ministry, it was also announced.

In addition to the above appointments, 19 Lieutenant Generals have simultaneously been appointed Commanders of various Divisional Districts in Japan and Chosen.

The announcement follows:

"Lieutenant General Noboru Kunizaki appointed Commander of the Asahikawa Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Chigo Takagi appointed Commander of the Hirosaki Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Giin Takagi appointed Commander of the Sendai Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Shozo Terakura appointed Commander of the Tokyo Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Komeji Seki appointed Commander of the Utsunomiya Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Morihito Hirabayashi appointed Commander of the Nagano Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Susumu Fujita appointed Commander of the Kanazawa Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Shohei Washizu appointed Commander of the Nagoya Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Kisaburo Hamamoto appointed Commander of the Kyoto Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Masao Watanabe appointed Commander of the Osaka Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Yoji Fujii appointed Commander of the Hiroshima Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Juko Yamaoka appointed Commander of the Zentsuji Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Kazutsugu Dobashi appointed Commander of the Kumamoto Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Waichiro Sonobe appointed Commander of the Kurume Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Muneyoshi Nishiwaki appointed Commander of the Ranan Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Yoshiharu Takeshita appointed Commander of the Heijo Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Koichi Komoda appointed Commander of the Keijo Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Toshio Muraji appointed Commander of the Taikyu Divisional District.

"Lieutenant General Ikkaku Shimono appointed Commander of the Keshu Divisional District."

90 Enemy Warships Destroyed, Damaged In Okinawa Struggle

Composite war results achieved so far by Japanese Air and Surfacecraft Units in their attacks against enemy warships and vessels in the waters off the Southwestern Islands are as follows:

	Sunk	Damaged	Total
Aircraft carriers	2	—	2
Battleships	2	1	3
Battleships or Cruisers	—	10	10
Cruisers	10	1	11
Cruiser or destroyer	1	—	1
Transports	1	3	4
Destroyers	13	8	21
Mine-sweeper	1	—	1
Ships of unidentified category	16	11	27
Large warships	5	5	10
Grand Total	51	39	90

NIPPON BOMBERS ATTACK ENEMY'S CHANGSHA BASE

Poor Visibility Hampers Confirmation of Results Attained In Night Raid

By J. TSUTSUMI
Of the Military Press Corps

CONTINENTAL BASE, March 31. Following up its raid on March 28, Japanese Night Bomber Corps carried out a bombing attack against the enemy airfield establishments at Changsha early this morning. Considerable damage was done to the enemy but owing to bad visibility, the war results could not be confirmed.

Rail Facilities Attacked

Domei

HANGCHOW, March 31.—Eleven P-51's carried out strafing attacks mainly on local railway facilities and airfield for half an hour from 12:20 p.m. yesterday but no damage was done. Two of the raiders were damaged by A-A batteries.

U.S. CASUALTIES 872,862

Increase of 13,275 Over Last Week Bared by Stimson

Domei

LISBON, March 29.—The U.S. Army and Navy Department announced today that the American combat casualties since Pearl Harbor totaled 872,862, an increase of 13,275 over last week, according to a dispatch from Washington. The navy, marine and U.S. coast guard casualties total 92,811 including 35,750 killed, 42,302 wounded, 10,500 missing and 4,267 prisoners, the dispatch said.

The loss of a tank landing ship and a large craft to support landings in the Philippines from Japanese action was announced today by the Navy Department, according to a Washington dispatch. The vessels were the LCS (L) (3)-6 and the LST 577. The landing-covering craft is a type which normally carries a crew of 50 men, and the LST, a crew of 65 to 75, the dispatch said.

No announcement was made of the total casualties. The announcement raised to 277 the total naval vessels of all types lost since the start of the war.

The LST 577 was built by the Missouri Valley Bridge and Iron Company, Evansville, Indiana, and commissioned July 3, 1944. It displaced 1,653 tons.

The LCS (L) (3)-6 was built by the George Lawley and Sons Corporation, Neponset, Massachusetts, and commissioned August 29, 1944. She displaced 250 tons, the dispatch concluded.

Reich Cities Not Taken

Domei

BERLIN, March 31.—There are no Americans in Paderborn, Hagen and Muenster, official German quarters stated, thus denying the Anglo-American claim that these three towns had been occupied by them. It was announced that the American fighting group which had launched a thrust from the south toward Paderborn was repulsed as far as to the southwest of the city after 26 tanks had been put out of action. Also near Hagen and Muenster, the American spearheads had been checked far away from the cities.

50 ENEMY CRAFT SUNK OR DAMAGED OFF OKINAWA ISLE

Attack by Carrier-Borne Planes Ceases; 3 Battleships, 2 Carriers Sunk

The American task forces which have already lost 40 warships sunk or damaged by the Japanese Forces in a six-day operation off the Southwestern Islands area after March 23 again suffered heavy losses in the same area, totaling 50 warcraft sent to the bottom or destroyed by Imperial Air and Sea Forces between March 28 and 30.

Meanwhile, the assault by carrier-borne planes from the U.S. task forces operating off the Southwestern Islands ceased on and after March 30 although the enemy fleet bombardments against the main island of Okinawa are being intensified.

Regarding the new brilliant war results and the battle situation, the Imperial Headquarters issued a communique at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday.

The communique follows:

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
at 4:30 p.m. March 31

"The war situation in the Southwestern Islands area since last reported follows:

"1. The attack by carrier-borne planes from the enemy task forces ceased on and after March 30 but the enemy fleet bombardments against the main Okinawa island are still severe.

"2. Of the war results obtained by our Air and Sea Forces against the enemy warships, those that have become known later follow:

SUNK—
2 aircraft carriers
1 battleship
4 cruisers
6 destroyers
1 transport
16 warships of unidentified category

DAMAGED—
1 battleship
1 battleship or cruiser
1 cruiser
5 destroyers
1 transport
11 warships of unidentified category."

90 U.S. Warships Hit

In a little more than one week since March 23 the U.S. navy has suffered the big blow of having 90 of its warships sunk or damaged in waters off the Southwestern Islands area.

Day in and day out the Japanese air and sea forces are furiously attacking the enemy task forces by ramming tactics and the great battle results that have so far been ascertained and announced by the Imperial Headquarters on Saturday have brought the total of enemy warcraft sunk to 51, while 39 others have been damaged.

Details of the results obtained by the Japanese Air and Sea Forces in the special attacks on the U.S. task forces since March 23 follow:

SUNK:
2 aircraft carriers
2 battleships
5 large warships
10 cruisers
1 cruiser or destroyer
13 destroyers
1 minesweeper
16 warships of unknown category
1 transport

DAMAGED:
5 large warships
1 battleship
10 battleships or cruisers
1 cruiser
8 destroyers
3 transports
11 warships of unknown category

As stated by the Imperial Headquarters, no carrier-borne planes from enemy task forces appeared over the Southwestern Islands on and after March 30. However, the enemy continued to bombard the main Okinawa island.

In conjunction with the Okinawa operations, Mariana-based B-29 bombers numbering about 170 raided various places in Kyushu for about two hours from 10 a.m. on Saturday when they principally attacked airfields and air-facilities.

Trial for Petain Set

Domei

LISBON, March 30.—The trial of Marshal Philippe Petain, Chief of State of the Vichy Government during the German occupation of France, will begin on April 24, the French Press Agency said today in a broadcast dispatch reported by the FFC, according to a New York report.

JAPAN'S DESTINY HANGS ON BATTLE FOR OKINAWA

Time Has Come for Decisive Fight; Isles Must Be Held at all Costs

Japan's destiny hangs on the outcome of the fighting in the Southwestern Islands, for the situation there contains all the essentials for a battle to decide the war. Commenting on the situation, both the Mainichi and the Yomiuri-Hochi stressed on Friday that the islands where action rages at present form the ramparts of the country's defense which have to be held at all costs, and that the time has come for concentrated Japanese strength to deal a truly decisive blow upon the overconfident enemy.

The Mainichi declared that although the results scored by the Japanese Forces by ramming actions were again magnificent, the very greatness of the results alone did not itself mean that the military situation was turning in our favor. It pointed out that the number of aircraft carriers alone which had been sunk and confirmed by Imperial Headquarters since the outbreak of the war was 75 and those damaged 60. Infinitely greater than these results, the paper emphasized, are the results of bleeding the enemy secred by the Japanese Forces who had become a defense wall for their country.

Ignored Their Losses

Japanese Forces built defense walls against the enemy with their own flesh and blood in the Solomons, Gilberts, Marshalls, Marianas, Philippines and Yiojima, where the enemy was bled appallingly. But, said the journal, the Americans pushed forward without heed for their losses, under a superior air umbrella.

The Mainichi continued in effect: "Although magnificent results have been scored, the military situation is in a serious decisive stage wherein no laxness is permissible. The fate of the War of Greater East Asia hangs on the Southwestern Islands, and Japan truly stands at the crossroads of her rise or fall. Now is the time for the 100,000,000 people of the nation to concentrate their fighting power and erect an impregnable defense wall, to destroy at a stroke the invading enemy.

"The enemy's war aim, which is contrary to justice, is, after all, war of investments. He is continuing his material offensive with the idea that the great attrition he is experiencing today will be worth it when he is enabled to reap immense harvests of profits after the war. The fundamental enemy concention as regards the disposal of Japan is that 'the maximum demands against Germany must be the minimum condition against Japan.' How bitter will be the enemy's postwar plans may be seen, when consideration is paid to how the enemy will make up for the huge expenses involved in the war. We must make the enemy realize that his present efforts will not be worth it, and make him abandon the war. To do that we must trap the enemy and annihilate him at a stroke. The decisive fighting in the Southwestern Islands is indeed the opportunity for that; it is a heaven-sent opportunity to destroy the arrogant enemy.

Must Be Held

"The enemy invasion plan against the Southwestern Islands is extremely strong. His force is a vast force, formed by throwing in every ounce of his national strength. But no matter how vast the enemy's materialpower may be, the defense wall of the Southwestern Islands is a stronghold which must be held through the concentration of the total power of the 100,000,000 people. The War of Greater East Asia hangs on this one battle, and the rise or fall of the nation stands to be decided by the outcome of the present struggle."

The Yomiuri-Hochi, declaring that the time has come for a decisive encounter between the United States and Japan, said that the Kerama landing was a preliminary operation for action aimed at the main Okinawa Island. Outlining the air operations conducted by the enemy against Japan Proper and the fact that the enemy was quickly making up for the attrition he was undergoing and even increasing his numbers in the Okinawa fighting, the journal stressed that the enemy's will was unexpectedly strong. Almost all of his strength in the Pacific is concentrated in this region, the paper declared, adding that hereafter the enemy might throw in his last ship or even the British fleet.

"Whether we like it or not," the Yomiuri-Hochi said, "the time for a decisive battle between the United States and Japan will inevitably come. The heaven-sent opportunity for such an encounter has arrived. All the essentials for such a battle are being fulfilled and a decisive encounter will be inevitable as long as the enemy attempts to force a landing on Okinawa. We have already begun action with special attack corps. Everything must be thrown in at this decisive time."

The paper stressed: "There can only be one decisive battle. There can be no decisive battle after a decisive battle, and if the chance is lost all will be lost. On the other hand, if we succeed in destroying the enemy, we will not only be able to turn to the offensive but to decide victory at that moment."

Sosa Stresses Importance

The extraordinary importance of the present Southwestern Islands operation was stressed by Rear Admiral Tanetsugu Sosa, a member of the Retired Navy Officers' Association, in an interview with the Yomiuri-Hochi.

Rear Admiral Sosa observed that the enemy, in launching the Southwestern Islands invasion was fully aware of the enormous losses which he will inevitably have to suffer in the undertaking. Admiral Sosa said that attention must be paid to the fact the new enemy operation was started immediately following the end of the costly invasion of Yiojima Island.

The principal objective of the enemy's Okinawa invasion is, according to the Admiral, to establish an advance base in the Southwestern Islands and thus to strengthen his air power against the Japanese mainland. He stated that the new invasion was obviously undertaken to neutralize Taiwan, a fortress many times stronger than the Philippines, and was another example of the enemy's favorite "hopping tactics" of attacking points of least resistance.

Further elaborating on the American strategy, Admiral Sosa went on:

"It is the same old tactics. You may recall that the United States forces advanced to the Marianas directly from the Caroline Islands, leaving the fortress of Rabaul and Truk and Yap Islands. The loss of the Southwestern Islands would mean the neutralization of Taiwan and the Philippines as was the case with Rabaul and Truk Island.

Southwest Islands Vital

"No matter how powerful the fortress of Taiwan may be, it will amount to no more than an isolated island if its communications with the mainland are cut off. If the enemy is allowed to establish an air base there, he will be enabled to use the Southwestern Islands to disrupt the Japanese mainland communications not only with the Philippines but with all the Southern Regions as well as with the Chinese Continent and Chosen. If used for a submarine base, these islands will prove very valuable for the enemy.

"Because the Southwestern Islands are situated quite near the Mariana base, the occupation of this archipelago would decide the outcome of the Philippine operations. In view of their extraordinary strategic importance, the Southwestern Islands must be defended at any cost by mobilizing all available resources of the people.

"Minor blows to the enemy task forces cannot weaken his mad ambition. In view of the operational value of a land base, it is safe to presume that the invasion forces will try to build one on the Okinawa Islands at any cost. The current Southwestern Islands operation is, indeed, a decisive battle, for, you may recall that initial establishment of an airfield on Leyte Island finally developed into the present Luzon operations."

Admiral Sosa emphasized that landing on the Japanese mainland was the ultimate operational objective of the U.S. forces. He warned that the enemy was bent on occupying all outlying islands including Yiojima Island, the Southwestern Islands and probably the Chishima Islands also and from there, carry out large-scale bombings of Japan Proper. One countermeasure against this enemy intention is the recapture of enemy bases on Saipan and Yiojima Islands while attacking the task forces.

Enemy Seen Fully Prepared

"Destruction of hostile task forces around the Southwestern Islands would lead to the launching of a general offensive by our Forces," said Admiral Sosa, "but the people should be cautioned against rejoicing over some successes because the enemy task forces are fully prepared to be counterattacked by our land-based air force when they dare to attack our position. Because the enemy has considerable capacity for supplying and repairing, we should not be satisfied with air attacks against the land-based enemy air power. Recapture of enemy islands bases must be our objective."

The Admiral warned that with the arrival of Spring, enemy activities from Alaska and the Aleutians will be intensified while Japan's central region will be subjected to mere vigorous assault from the Marianas and Yiojima. From the south the enemy air force in the Philippines will launch operations while in the west, B-29 raids from Chengtu and Sian will be carried out against Manchoukuo and Chosen. The Admiral concluded that with the start of the Southwestern Islands operation, the opportunity for turning the tables in the war situation has arrived.

Naval Cadets Graduate

The graduation ceremony of the Naval Academy took place on Friday and immediately following the ceremony all the graduates left their school for the front.

CHURCHILL TO MAKE BID FOR MORE FOOD FROM U.S.

Ready to Intervene Personally, To Have Decision to Slash Meat Supply Recalled

Domei

STOCKHOLM, March 30.—The London correspondent of the Tribune Geneve reports that Prime Minister Winston Churchill is ready to make a personal intervention in Washington in order to secure a recall of the American decision which drastically curtails meat shipments to Great Britain.

The prospect of a meat ration reduction to insufficient quantities that may lead to undernourishment has seriously affected British political circles and also the public. The first to be hit are hotels and restaurants where meat dishes are obtainable without coupons. The Government also wants to maintain a workers' canteen supply as these play a large role in feeding the nation.

It is reported that Prime Minister Churchill emphasized to President Roosevelt that, firstly, Britain enforced food rationing before any other European country; secondly, British food reserves were seriously depleted owing to shipments to liberated Europe. Thirdly, the new restrictions could undermine the national health.

The Army's requirements are cited as the principal reason for the meat shortage as the soldiers' numbers sharply increased, while the number of POW's (Prisoners of War) exceeded all forecasts. The POW's must be fed in the same way as British soldiers.

The experts believe that this meat shortage may soon extend to fats, sugar and wheat.

The London correspondent of the Journal Geneve recalls that British War Secretary Sir James Grigg announced that Great Britain had sent 300,000 tons of foodstuffs to France, Belgium and Holland, while the daily food shipments to the Franco-Belgian harbors amounted to 7,000 tons.

The drought which reduced the exportable meat surplus from Argentina, South Africa and Australia complicates the problem, while the Times correspondent in Buenos Aires reports that Argentine meat shipments to Great Britain decreased monthly to a point where they have almost completely ceased, owing to the Argentine Government's June, 1944 decision restricting the quantity of meat for canning.

The transport difficulties have increased owing to the shipping concentration in the Pacific while the much published UNRRA food stocks are far below the announced quantities.

Gravest Food Supply Crisis

In the meanwhile, the National Zeitung's London correspondent reports the gravest food supply crisis since the whole war aroused a discussion in England of those who are responsible. From the national viewpoint, the food situation at present is good, however, the size of the stocks is unknown. America estimates place these at 700,000,000 tons which are certainly fantastic. However, civilians and the military, including American and other allied troops stationed in Britain, could maintain the present standard if they hadn't ceded food to hungry Europe. All those returning from the continent visit including Clement Attlee say that the dilatory treatment of the continent's food worries must cease.

The Americans are doubtlessly better supplied than the British. However, the latter's daily guaranteed 3,000 calories still represent double of the French, Belgian and Greek rations. The meat ration, comprising of a pound weekly is the rationing's weakest point. The worry about the further shortage apparently exaggerated is only explainable by the comparison to America's high meat ration. After the UNRRA's undeniable bankruptcy a demand arose for the creation of a European economic staff. The Daily Herald says machinery for the Allied economic collaboration failed similarly to the political collaboration, for instance, in Rumania. This criticism is surprising, as a supreme Allied council exists in Washington.

Up to Roosevelt

The Daily Telegraph's Washington correspondent reports on March 15 as follows:

Roosevelt will be forced to undertake to make a personal solution of how far American food shipment abroad will be curtailed in the immediate future in the interest of the American civilians. Marvin Jones, head of the War Food Administration, insisted that foreign food shipments should be drastically reduced and Britain and liberated Europe be deprived of all meat shipments during the next three months.

The Foreign Economic Administration and the State Department with the governments concerned protested. The impression prevails among the American public that the British civilians enjoy larger quantities of butter and American beef steaks.

The dilemma which faces the Administration is that if the foreign export commitments are honored, stricter rations will be necessary in the United States. If the foreign export commitments are scrapped, the State Department fears that there will be resentment abroad, which will weaken America's influence in international affairs, particularly among the liberated nations.

In the United States, the meat shortage is worse than at any time since rationing began. Better grades have disappeared from the butcher shops all over the country.

The News Chronicle commented on the British food situation as follows:

The world meat situation is becoming so critical that the meat rations in Britain may have to be cut still further this year. The great drought in Australia and New Zealand is largely responsible for Britain's shortage. Enormous orders had been placed with these countries for 1945 meat supplies. These cannot be supplied now. The food situation is the worst it has ever been at any time during the war, with the possible exception of the days when the U-boat menace was at its peak.

Clement Attlee, British Deputy Prime Minister, reported to the War Cabinet on talks he had in France and Belgium and on renewed demands for relief from the two Provisional Governments. Britain's stock pile has now been reduced to the absolute minimum. Enormous inroads have been made into our reserves of food and clothing in an attempt to satisfy the demands of France, Belgium, Holland, and Greece. To cut the reserves further would seriously jeopardize our rations.

The Bund's London correspondent reports that the American announcement that meat deliveries to England be reduced to 12.5 per cent of the former amounts caused a deception since it is known that the Canadian-American consumption is 50 per cent higher than that of the English.

In comparison to the prewar period, the Canadian-American meat consumption rose 16 per cent whereas the English consumption decreased 19 per cent. Therefore, it is hardly understandable why the Americans persist in maintaining their high weekly consumption of three pounds of fresh and smoked meat, while millions suffer the shortage in the Allied and European countries.

The same difference of nourishment exists between the Anglo-American forces without raising the question that the British are less efficient and physically weaker. With goodwill, the Canadians and the Americans should spare enormous quantities of the most valuable foodstuffs for the famished European Continent.

Fuehrer's Headquarters

March 31

In Hungary our troops in prepared positions between the Drave and the western tip of Lake Balaton held up the enemy who had advanced from either side of Nagybajom. Southwest of Koerment and in the area north of Guens, the Soviets advanced further after fierce fighting but north of the Danube our formations held their positions at Neutra and Waag against numerous enemy attacks. At the western foothills of the Hohe Tatra, enemy penetrations were removed by counterthrusts.

In Upper Silesia, the Soviets again attacked in vain southwest of Schwarzwasser and south of Leobschuetz but were able to enter Ratibor and Katscher. They suffered, however, serious losses. In fierce defensive fighting 77 enemy tanks were destroyed.

The defenders of Glogau continued to hold out in the old section of the city and in the castle but the fortress of Kuestrin after fierce fighting succumbed to the enemy's numerical superiority.

In the western coastal area of Danzig Bay, violent fighting developed for the Oxhoefter Kempe northwest of Gotenhafen. At the western edge of the Vistula depressions, strong enemy attacks were repulsed. In view of the increasing bogginess of the terrain in Courland the enemy continued his attacks only in a northeasterly and easterly direction and clashed with our counterattacks.

In the west, in the northern edge of the industrial district of the Ruhr, the Americans despite our tenacious resistance entered Bottrop, and in this fighting area the enemy yesterday lost 25 tanks. South of Siegen and at the eastern spurs of the Rothaar Mountains, our troops are engaged in fierce fighting with American formations attacking in a northerly direction. Mobile enemy forces are pressing forward from the Brilon-Korbach area into the sector south of Paderborn and from the Lahn Valley into the Bad Wildungen-Treisa area west of Fulda. However, countermeasures have been taken. Thus our formations which had been brought up hurriedly drove the enemy spearheads back northwest of Hersfeld-Fulda and also checked the following up formations. Also in the Kinzig Valley west of Gelnhausen and at Alzenau our troops held their ground and again annihilated numerous enemy tanks. While the enemy was stopped by counterattacks at the Main south of Aschaffenburg, fighting is going on further up the river at Miltenberg and in the Odenwald at Amorbach and Buchen. The Americans penetrated Heidelberg and Schwetzingen but were thrown back again in counterattacks at the Rhine southwest from that area.

In central Italy, artillery fire and reconnaissance activity revived from the Ligurian coast to the Montese mountains.

Terror attacks by American bomber formations heavily damaged especially the residential quarters of Hamburg, Bremen and Wilhelmshafen. Other enemy planes dropped bombs on greater Vienna and on additional places in southeastern Germany. During the night weaker formations attacked the Reich capital and Erfurt. Our air defence forces especially fighters shot down 33 enemy planes.

Our midget submarines sank a fully laden freighter of 1,500 tons on the Thames-Scheldt traffic. Continuing their attacks against the enemy supply lines, our submarines sank out of a strongly protected Anglo-American convoy one auxiliary aircraft carrier and four ships of 20,000 tons as well as three destroyers.

INVITATION TO S.F. MEET REFUSED BY DE GAULLE

Roosevelt's Offer Is Declined—Step Climaxes Recent Disturbed Relations

Special to the Nippon Times

STOCKHOLM, March 29.—Climax series of disturbing indications of the nature of his foreign policy and his view of France's proper position in the world, General Charles de Gaulle, Head of the Provisional Government of France, has declined Roosevelt's invitation to attend the San Francisco Conference, writes The New Statesman and Nation.

Another indication was a recent article in the Dutch Government's semi-official weekly in London, the Vrij Nederland, which it accused De Gaulle of wishing to treat Belgium and Holland "like a fussy hen, trying to collect her chicks under her wings." According to the Vrij Nederland, the Belgians and Dutch were being solicited to join with France and the Rhineland state detached from Germany, and to establish with their colonial empire a sort of federation under French leadership. The Dutch weekly rejoined that the Netherlands was not in need of French protection, and would certainly refuse to enter any European group, unless it included Britain.

There is no doubt, continues the Statesman and Nation, that General De Gaulle meant well, but his proposals bore an unfortunate resemblance to an attempt to build up a European and colonial group under French patronage as a counterweight to the British Empire. This opinion is now endorsed by French Socialist critics who say that De Gaulle is endeavoring to pursue the ancient balance of power tactics between Britain and her ally, the Soviet Union. The journal states that the color is lent to this thesis by De Gaulle's failure to follow up the Franco-Soviet alliance with proposals for a treaty with Britain and by his recent broadcast that France would conclude a treaty with Britain only if the latter recognized that "Rhineland must be occupied by French troops in perpetuity" and if Britain ended "certain longstanding colonial rivalries." The latter is believed by the journal to refer to British opposition to De Gaulle's demand to maintain French predominance in the mandated territories of Syria and Lebanon, instead of acting on the French promise to recognize independence of these communities.

That issue, the New Statesman and Nation writes, which was obviously linked up with the question of federation of the Arab states, and the position of Palestine, was presumably included in the matters discussed between Churchill and Roosevelt at the Cairo Conference.

The journal continues:

"General De Gaulle's foreign policy is drawn from the conclusion that France is a world power on exactly the same footing as the United States or the Soviet Union. Though France happily escaped the worst of the war's destruction in terms of population and material (not to mention military) resources, the promise is obviously absurd. But General De Gaulle, representing in this as in most things the French Conservative Nationalist and military opinion, clings to it with passionate obstinacy that refuses to recognize France's changed position in the world. It is up to the British Government to help our French neighbors to arrive at a realistic view of our joint position and needs in the postwar world. We can do so only if we start by recognizing that this little island, too, although it can for some time enjoy formal equality in world affairs with two vast world powers, is bound to come off second best in power politics.

"Britain's position in world affairs today is similar to the position of France in European affairs at the end of the last war. We should both recognize the fact that, measured by the scale of world affairs and the additional criteria of power politic, our two countries have become second-class powers by comparison with the United States and the Soviet Union. The conclusion we should draw from this is that it is better to be the greatest of smaller states than the least of the great powers."

Cambodians to Drill

Domei

PHNOM-PENH, March 31.—With the restoration of their country and the declaration of independence of Cambodia, 7,000 young boys and girls have taken this momentous time in incorporating themselves into one unified league. Preparations are being made by them for vigorous training in national defense in view of the critical world situation.

U.S. MEAT PACKERS STRIKE

Armour & Co. Closed Down—Army Deliveries Cease

Domei

LISBON, March 31.—The huge Armour and Company, packing plant, employing 3,500 persons and engaged largely in filling orders for the armed forces, was shut down by a work stoppage today, according to a dispatch from Kansas City, Kansas. The work stoppage followed a strike by 10 employes in the power plant yesterday, the dispatch said.

Today, pickets appeared at all the gates, refusing admittance even to office workers, who are not members of the union, the dispatch continued.

Will Johns, chief of police, said the work stoppage was complete, the same dispatch revealed, which further continued and said that the company officials and officials of the packing house workers union (CIO) could not be reached immediately for comment.

A spokesman for the army quartermaster corps said that deliveries on the Government contracts from the plant have ceased, the dispatch disclosed.

The police were stationed at the plant, but no trouble was reported, the dispatch said, which concluded by saying that the regional War Labor Board said it had not been notified of a work stoppage.

EUROPEAN WAR SITUATION REVEALS CHANGING PLANS

Action on W. Front Intensifies; Stability Seen on Eastern Front

By a Domei Correspondent

BERLIN, March 28.—A semblance of stability has come to the Eastern Front, but on the Western Front the situation is daily intensifying, with the American offensive being pushed determinedly. Reports emanating from American and British sources had stated that Germany was transferring part of her strength from the Western to the Eastern Front in order to confront the Soviet Union.

The forces under Lieutenant General George S. Patton, Jr., which had been advancing along the Mainz front, have broken through the German defense system and they are now threatening to penetrate into the central fields of Germany. According to statements made by the German authorities prior to the war, Germany's western line of fortifications ends on the western bank of the Rhine River except for the southern section.

The Anglo-American forces have already penetrated the German positions, and once they are across the Rhine they will be in a position to engage in field operations which will be distinctly disadvantageous to the Germans. There is an indication that the Anglo-American forces might make a forced advance under cover provided by paratroops working from the area of Wesel, taking advantage of the weak condition of the defense system in the rear of the German forces.

According to their present plan, they will work in collaboration with the 2nd British and the 1st Canadian armies in an attempt to surround the German Central Army group. They also hope to counteract the Soviet advance on the Eastern Front by thrusting into Berlin and Hamburg from the north, where there are plenty of fields, and into Munich and Vienna from the south.

Before their present operations, the Anglo-American forces had six divisions of paratroops in the rear, which fact was established by German reconnoitering parties. Two of these paratroop divisions have already been used in the area of Wesel. It is expected that the remaining four divisions will be used in operations at a point where the principal attack is planned.

The way in which the Anglo-American forces are operating in Europe as well as in East Asia suggest that they are anxious to block the Soviet advance and to bring an end to the hostilities as soon as possible to meet the domestic conditions of their countries. Time alone will show whether the Germans will use their limited human resources in a way that will enable them to carry on successful operations on both Eastern and Western Fronts at the same time.

Shifts Administrative Affairs

Starting from April 1, the Munitions Ministry has decided to shift a large portion of its administrative affairs relating to production, transport, raw material and labor to provincial mining district bureaus by dispatching about a half of high-ranking officials of the Ministry to these outpost offices. The new set-up involves all affairs relating to exploitation of mineral resources excepting those relative to the Material Mobilization Plan, transport of ores, distribution of mineral ores other than iron ores, manganese ores, chrome ores, tungsten ores, sulphur, etc. as well as the assignment of labor.

NEW COAL STRIKE LOOMS IN AMERICA ON APRIL 1

Government Seizure of Mines Seen as Contract Talks Are Stalemated

Domei

LISBON, March 30.—The soft coal wage negotiations floundered today toward Government seizure of the mines and a new wartime labor strike, according to a Washington dispatch.

For a few hours, the stalemated contract talks appeared to be headed for a spectacular eleventh hour success under the guidance of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, the dispatch continued. These hopes were, however, dashed by the operators' refusal to accept proposals for a new working agreement to replace the one expiring tomorrow midnight. Miss Perkins immediately certified the case as a dispute to the War Labor Board. This is the first step toward possible Government control of the mines.

The War Labor Board today called the deadlocked soft coal operators and miners to a hearing tomorrow morning to determine whether their contract can be extended until a new one is reached, says another Washington dispatch. The present contract expires at midnight tomorrow and Government seizure of the mines was seen possible if the operators and John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, fail to agree on a new pact or an extension of the present one.

"The parties will be called on to show cause in accordance with the Board practice in such cases why the terms and conditions of the existing contract should not be extended, pending final action on the issues in dispute, and why an effective date for wage adjustments that may be finally determined upon should no be fixed," chairman George W. Taylor of the WLB telegraphed the operators and the miners, the same dispatch said. The Board acted within an hour after receiving formal certification of the dispute from Secretary of Labor Perkins, who announced last midnight that she was sending the dispute to the WLB after the operators rejected her compromise plan, the dispatch continued.

Lewis had agreed to Miss Perkins' proposal, which is understood to have eliminated his demand for a royalty of 10 cents a ton on all soft coal mined, the dispatch revealed.

Taylor said in his telegram that the Board would determine at the hearing whether it can hear the dispute directly, dispending with the customary procedure of naming a special panel, the dispatch concluded.

5,000 Workers Idle

Domei

LISBON, March 30.—Production of parts for the P-38's and the U.S. Navy Hell Diver planes was at a standstill in the Hudson Motor Car Company today as 5,000 workers remained idle in the wake of a strike of 110 inspectors, according to a dispatch from Detroit.

The management representatives said that approximately 2,000 of the 7,000 employes, who were sent home yesterday following the walkout on Wednesday night of the inspectors, had been called back to work on other lines but that the two aircraft production schedules were halted, the dispatch said.

The management denied the statement of Claude Bland, president of the Local 154, United Automobile workers (CIO), that it had agreed to reinstate a union steward whose discharge precipitated the walkout of the inspectors. The firm charged he was fired for telling the employes "not to work so fast," the dispatch continued.

The 7,000 were sent home when the company said that it could not maintain the production schedules in the absence of the inspectors, the dispatch concluded.

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ARRIVE IN CHUNGKING

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, March 30.—The Three Men Committee sent by the American Society of Newspaper Editors on a world tour to promote a movement for greater press freedom and freer flow of news in the postwar period, arrived in Chungking by plane on March 28, according to a report from that city.

The crusaders of the freedom of press, Wilbur Forrest, editor of the New York Herald Tribune and vice-president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors; Ralph McGill, editor of the Atlanta Constitution of Georgia, and Carl Ackerman, Dean of the Columbia University (New York) Graduate School of Journalism, were met at the airfield by Dr. Hollington T. Tong, Vice-Minister of Information, Rodney Gilbert, Dean of the First Graduate School of the Central Political Institute, and Hsu, representing National Press Association and Central News Agency.

Shortly after they arrived at the Press Club, the three guest journalists attended the Wednesday conference for the foreign press presided over by Dr. T. V. Soong, Vice-President of the Executive Yuan and concurrently Foreign Minister.

FASCIST ITALY MAKING MARVELOUS PROGRESS

Labor Reserves Mobilized to Reconstruct Devasted Areas By Enemy Raiders

Domei

BERLIN, March 30.—Easter finds the Fascist Italian Social Republic in a state of rapid progress, according to a Transocean correspondent reporting from Milan.

With fresh military strength and its authorities commanding everywhere respect, upper Italy in the midst of the destructions of war has started on its reconstruction already, continued the correspondent. For this purpose all reserves of labor have been mobilized.

The following achievements are enumerated in the circles: stability of the southern front, satisfying of labor by far-reaching concessions, and continuous stabilization of domestic conditions. The rearmament of upper Italy certainly is a preliminary condition for this fundamental change, adding that industrious Italian tradesmen and craftsmen have started to clean up the damage done by the enemy air raids.

The people who were bombed out in towns have received their compensation from the State. The building trade is prospering and there is a veritable competition in upper Italy to clear up the debris as speedily as possible.

Gangs Pillaging Rome

Domei

LISBON, March 30.—The Italian capital is living under constant fear of juvenile bands who are incessantly committing crimes in all parts of the city, reports the Daily Herald from Rome, according to a dispatch from London.

The members of the bands are recruited from hundreds of starved children dressed in rags who are not attending schools and are loafing in the streets. Wild boys and girls have formed well organized bands which are a constant menace to the population. Armed to their teeth with Italian or Allied weapons they commit every imaginable crime like highway robbery, pillage, theft and even murder. Even the Allied soldiers are frequently beaten up by these gangs.

The Allied military authorities accuse the Roman police of siding with the bands since the arrested members of these gangs have again and again succeeded in making mysterious escapes.

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MEMBERS REPORT BIRTH OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Visit Meiji, Yasukuni Shrines; Koiso Voices Nation's Firm War Resolve

General Jiro Minami, President of the Japan Political Association, has been appointed a member of the House of Peers by Imperial nomination, it was disclosed on Saturday.

The formation of the Dai Nippon Seijikai, or the Greater Japan Political Association, which took place on Friday, was reported to the spirits of the Meiji Shrine and Yasukuni Shrine by Tsuneo Kanemitsu and Kenzo Matsumura, both representing the new political party.

Koiso Speaks

Prime Minister General Kuniaki Koiso made a speech at the inaugural ceremony of the Dai Nippon Seijikai on Friday. His speech, in part, follows:

"The war situation has gained in severity. We are impressed with the feeling that a decisive battle looms—a battle that will be fought on Japan Proper. However, we Japanese have no need at all to be consternated at facing this stern reality. If there is a single Japanese who is absorbed in thinking of his own safety or taking a pessimistic view of the future situation at this momentous time, it must be said that he is a victim of the nerve warfare of the enemy.

"Those who tremble at the huge material strength of the enemy are liable to surrender before that strength but such a shameful act will never be committed by the Japanese who have been endowed with loyalty and bravery during a long period of several thousand years. The more severe the war situation grows, the harder will become their spirit of securing the fundamental character of Japan. Every ounce of the Japanese efforts should be concentrated on the increase of war strength and defense of the State."

At the inaugural meeting of the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai held in the Diet Building on Saturday, General Jiro Minami, president of the new organization, made an inspiring speech, the text of which follows:

"The absolute unity between the Government, the fighting services, and the people is the essential condition for victory, and the present war situation demands a national administration which may realize this essential unity. Under this premise the first requirement is to enable the people to develop their strength to the full extent. Material force and organization, however great or perfect, would remain lifeless, unless supported by the people forging ahead with strong confidence in themselves.

"The people, however, are now feeling that the present state of affairs leaves something to be desired, and are waiting for a strong lead from the Government, while the Government on its part is rousing itself to new efforts. This seems to be the correct diagnosis of the situation.

"The mission of the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai, as will be clear from its program and manifest, is to concentrate national efforts, speedily and effectively, on the winning of the war. The energies of the whole nation must be directly linked up with the fighting front so that national safety may be assured by final victory. In the discharge of this mission, there are many things to be done by the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai. The first point is that the members of the organization should stand at the head of the people, taking their lives in their hands. What the nation demands is action, and not theory. Action is everything, and the people are now ready for any sacrifice, in order to ensure final victory. The second point is that the new organization should serve as the instrument of national unity, securing the closet possible cooperation between the Government, the fighting services, and the people.

Courageous Execution Demanded

"The national unity of the customary type is no longer adequate for the requirements of the situation. There must be confidence in and respect for the people, as there must be confidence in and respect for the Government and the fighting services. Linking up the fervent patriotism of the people with the national administration, the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai will demand of the Government the courageous execution of all necessary measures. In so doing, the organization will use the best effort to see that the energies surging up from the heart of the people are neither blocked nor wasted.

"The people palpitating with patriotic enthusiasm must be brought into direct contact with the fighting services, apart from matters of strategy, as the services place implicit confidence in the fervent patriotism of the people. With national solidarity thus sealed, the traditional polity of Japan will be revealed in its purest form. Should minor friction of a temporary character within the country lead to the neglect, however slight, of the defense against the external enemy, a serious situation would be created, a situation unworthy of the nation and her leaders.

"From these considerations, the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai will admit as members all men, who, irrespective of their past affiliations, are willing to cooperate, in order to march hand in hand to victory. There can be no complete integration of all political forces, unless all men solicitous for the safety of the country are accepted as our comrades. Our humble duty to the Sovereign is to relieve Him of any anxiety by securing victory through the national concentration enumerated in the program and manifesto of the Organization.

"The manifesto adopted at the inaugural meeting of the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai is as follows:

"The homeland of Japan has been turned into the theater of war by the enemy. At this crucial junction, our clear duty as subjects of the Sovereign is to concentrate the energies of the whole nation on the single point of winning the war. All the resources of government, production, and life must directly be harnessed for the defense of the country. Unshakable in temper, resolute in action, and upholding always the moral standard, we must all go out to fight for the country.

"From our forefathers we have inherited loyalty and patriotism incomparable in strength. When we close our ranks, inspired by this spirit, there can be no defeat, however formidable the invading enemy may be. At this decisive moment, the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai is inaugurated, in order to realize national concentration by integrating all political forces toward overcoming the peril threatening national safety, so that our responsibility in this regard may be fully discharged. Let it be emphasized that the aim of the Dai Nippon Seiji-kai is to establish national concentration, in order to safeguard our national life and polity, and to push forward the construction of Greater East Asia.

"We invite all loyal and patriotic men to join us and to respond to the call of the country."

Japanese Thought and Character

Michizane and Culture

By SHUNKICHI AKIMOTO
Of the Nippon Times Staff

Though, with the inauguration of the Tang Mission, Chinese art and culture were sought at their fountainhead, instead of through the agency of Chosen, intercourse with its kingdoms was not neglected. There were frequent missions to Silla and Koguryu, even to far distant countries up north which are supposed to be in the present Manchuria and Mongolia. The Kentoshi therefore was a monumental symbol of the world-wide culture intercourse Japan had then maintained.

To carry those ardent seekers of foreign learning over the difficult waters near the Japanese shores and across the Yellow Sea to the Continent, four ships were equipped, the Chief Envoy boarding one ship and the Vice-Envoy another and the rest of the passengers equally divided among them. Thus the China-going mission was poetically called "Yotsu-no-fune," or "Four Ships." They were sometimes honored with court rank in recognition (often in an anticipatory sense) of their services in conveying so many precious lives across the dangerous seas.

We will briefly review these Kentoshi missions, 12 in number, extending over two centuries. It must be remembered that in the year 617 the ill-fated Sui dynasty of China fell and was succeeded in the following year by Li Yuan, prince of Tang who established his brilliant dynasty known by his name and ruled for ten years at his celebrated new capital, Chang-an when his famous son Tai-tsung (in Japanese "To-no-Taiso") ascended the dragon throne, the greatest monarch China has ever produced, under whose rule the celestial empire earned the well-deserved title, the most civilized nation in the world. It was during the reign of this mighty emperor that the first proper Kentoshi mission was dispatched (630), headed by one Inukami no Mitazuki. The missions intermittently sent for over two centuries had virtually covered the duration of the Tang dynasty which came to an end in 907, or four years after Michizane was dead, after enjoying a continuous power of 299 years. Thus the term "Kentoshi" was quite appropriate. It may be said to have had a proper beginning and a proper ending, too.

The second Kentoshi mission, dispatched in 653, comprised 241 men, including two priests, Dosho and Joye, both of whom won great distinction in the Buddhist hierarchy of the early Nara period. Close on the heels of this mission the third departed of which the Chief Envoy was Genri, one of the early eight men who had accompanied Imoko in his Sui mission of 608. He, however, died soon after landing on Chinese soil. The fourth mission, headed by one Iwashiki, was foredoomed to misfortune. His ship was wrecked near an unknown island, and he himself probably eaten by the native cannibals. Some of his men stole a boat from the natives and after indescribable hardships reached the Tang capital only to find the political conditions unpropitious for their sojourn, but they returned home eventually to tell the sad tale of their chief's end. The fifth mission did leave the shores of Naniwa in 659 but disappeared into thin air, their subsequent proceedings known to none.

Famous Trio

The sixth mission leaving Japan in 702 was a memorable one as there happened to be among the passengers a lesser member of the suite, named Yamanoye no Okura, a scholar in Chinese and a good singer in native verse. His name is dear to all lovers of Manyo poetry as one of its outstanding stars.

In 717 departed the seventh mission and this was notable in many respects. The four ships carried no less than 557 persons: men of various stations and pursuits—scholars, artists, physicians, musicians, fortune-tellers, as well as priests and students. The ships were honorably christened and vested with rank. Among the younger men were the celebrated trio: Kibi no Makibi (or simply Mabi), Genbo the priest and Abe no Nakamaro. The last-mentioned was a lad of 16 and Mabi the oldest was twenty three or four. They all became great scholars and distinguished also for practical ability and political acumen. One can not imagine, however, greater diversities of destiny than those which were in store for the three; they remind us somewhat of Omar Khayyam and his two friends. Mabi the scholar-statesman and Genbo the priest-statesman returned to Japan after 18 years' studies and served the Government of Nara with high distinction.

To Mabi was attributed the invention of the Katakana syllabary. He served not only in the civil administration but also in military affairs, organizing a puissant anti-Silla expedition. He took a leading part in the construction of the great Todaiji temple and so of the Daibutsu of Nara. He was modest and temperate in his hours of triumph, nor did he lose his equable temper when, blown by fickle gales of fortune, he had to lie low under the shadow of adversity. He died at the mature age of 82 a mirror of what a great courtier should be. His name is often coupled with another great scholar-statesman of the Heian period—Sugawara Michizane—as the great twin who had risen from humble origin to the summit of public affairs by dint of his high learning and personality.

Genbo's career was as spectacular as its end was tragic. While in China he had been vested with the purple robe, and back in Japan received the equivalent of the purple robe—the highest that could befall ecclesiastic officers—which might be said to have been inaugurated in Japan to honor Genbo. The confidence the Court reposed in him was immense. He enjoyed the entree of the Palace, often delivering sermons in the august presence of the Sovereign and his closest entourage. In time his political influence became so powerful that Hirotsugu, representative of the Fujiwara family, was perfectly eclipsed. Matters came to a head when Hirotsugu, oppressed by Genbo, was obliged to raise a banner of rebellion, against Genbo, of course, but was inevitably treated as an Imperial rebel, a traitor against the nation. His defeat and death made Genbo a veritable Rasputin in the Court. He was now at the height of power and glory but nemesis came swift and terrible. While officiating at the dedication ceremony at a newly-built Kwannon temple in Tsukushi, so the story goes, a mysterious dagger appeared from nowhere in particular, stabbed Genbo through the heart and disappeared into the clouds.

Sage or Sinner?

The name of Abe no Nakamaro is made immortal by the famous tanka contained in the Kokinshu, also taken into the "Hyakuninisshu" (One hundred poets' single poems):

Ama no hara
Furisake mire ba
Kasuga naru
Mikasa no yama ni
Ideshi tsuki kamo

(Looking over the watery plains of heaven, I see the moon rising, and wonder if it is the same that shines over Kasuga, peeping from the edge of Mount Mikasa.)

It was sung in 753 A.D., on the eve of his intended departure for home as he was being entertained at a farewell party. Looking out over the moon-lit face of the great sea that intervened between Japan and China, he called up the familiar scene of his childhood which he was soon to revisit. So touching is the sentiment, and so simple and direct the diction that the song makes an immediate appeal to every heart. Its pathos is enhanced when it is remembered that Nakamaro was not destined to see the moon over Mount Mikasa while he lived. The verse has provoked many a parody at the hands of impious humorists, and the latest, sung on behalf of the American Admiral, Nimitz, would go something like this:

Amano hara
Furisake mireba
Washington
Capitol no ye ni
Ideshi tsuki kamo

I need hardly Anglicize this. May the man never live to see the moon peep out of the roof of the Capitol!

Nakamaro started homeward bound as he had intended, in company with Fujiwara Kiyokawa who had come to China in the previous year as Chief Envoy of the eighth culture mission. Overtaken by a terrible storm, the four ships separated from one another, the one bearing Nakamaro and Kiyokawa drifting to Annam. Many men were drowned. Indeed the two great men were given up for lost both in China and Japan, and poems were written in lamentation over their "death." Eventually, however, they returned to the Chinese capital, and they remained in China all their lives.

Nakamaro had early found favor in the eyes of the Tang Court, and receiving a series of honorable appointments in the Chinese Government, and was at the time of Kiyokawa's arrival holding a high post. He was appointed special entertainer of the Japanese Envoy, and when the Envoy was leaving he had been ordered to accompany him to Japan.

Kiyokawa, it seems, never recovered from the terrible shock he had suffered at sea and now decided to throw in his lot with Nakamaro and became naturalized in China. There were opportunities to go home if he wished to do so, but he ignored them. Finding perhaps a Chinese wife or wives, he found life in China comfortable enough, and all inducements by Japanese friends could not persuade him to change his mind.

Nakamaro who had been with the Tang court for half a century may have been wholly Sinofied in thought and sentiment. Some Japanese critics seem to regard him as a denationalized and unpatriotic renegade. But we can understand the position and psychology of the man who from his 16th year had found a second home in the most civilized capital in the world and a generous, appreciating friend in the great Tang emperor and who, baulked of his last chance of returning home, proved a willing captive in the land of his adoption. He indeed served the Chinese court with loyalty, and doubtless with high efficiency, thereby earning the great confidence of the ruler so he must be said to have indirectly upheld the credit of his native country in the eyes of the Chinese.

August Benevolence

Kiyokawa, however, seems to merit no such justification. Whoever heard of an ambassador of one nation sent to another who willingly passed the rest of his life in the service of the foreign court to which he had been accredited by his own government?

Before proceeding with Kiyokawa's story we may say a word about the Eighth Mission headed by Chief Envoy Hirotsugu and Vice-Envoy Nashino who left Japan in 753. This mission is notable for the little international colony he brought home, but it was a very hazardous return voyage. His four ships, storm-tossed, were separated from one another. Hirotsugu reached home only in March 756 aboard the same ship by which the two great men, Mabi and Genbo, came back. Vice-Envoy Nashino returned to Japan in August of the same year and by this boat came two Brahman priests, a Persian physician as well as many Chinese and Chosen subjects.

It was the ninth mission leaving Japan in 752 that was under the chief envoyship of Fujiwara Kiyokawa of whom so much has already been said. He was nephew to Empress Komyo and cousin to the reigning Sovereign, Koken Tenno, so that the Court was extremely solicitous about his welfare and did everything humanly possible to ensure his safe voyage. His royal aunt had a special service held at the Kasuga Shrine and honored him with a poem couched in these gracious words.

Oho fune ni
Makaji shige nuki
Kono wako o
Karakuni ye yaru
Ihaye kami tachi

(Aboard this ship girt with many staunch oars, this our beloved son is sent to the Land of Kara: Ye Gods, take him under your safe keeping.)

To this Kiyokawa had responded with the following tanka:

Kasuga no ni
Itsuki mamuro no
Ume no hana
Sakaye te arimate
Kaeri kuru made

(Thou, fair Plum Tree, blooming on the altar of the gods in Kasuga field, fragrant glory ever be thine till I return to pay thee my homage.)

The Empress was compared to the fair plum blooming at the sacred shrine and it was a point of reverent delicacy that he said not a word about his forthcoming voyage, still less his own safety; his present thought was only for the gracious Princess.

Empress Koken Tenno, was graciously pleased to send a special messenger to Naniwa just as Kiyokawa was departing, with the gift of sake, accompanied by a nagauta (a longer poem) which may roughly be translated as follows:

Blessed are you, son of Yamato land:
For you will find that sailing on the sea
Is like going on dry land;
Aboard ship it will be
As easy as it is in bed;
So well guarded by gods
Are the people of this land—remember.
Now sail ye Four Ships.
Prow to prow to in fair array
In prosperous voyage.
And return home safe and quick.
And your report make:
On that day again we will taste
This sacred lymph that I now send
For you to drink ere you go.

Delinquent Punished

The party reached the Chinese court in good time and were well received. Kiyokawa in particular gave the first rate impression to the Tang Emperor, and thus all went well till on his return journey he was met with the fatal storm that seems to have killed his last hope of ever seeing his native land.

The tenth mission under Ono no Iwana was charged with an extra commission—that of fetching back Kiyokawa. But Kiyokawa only sent home his daughter Kiro by name. This voyage home also proved a bad one; the ship carrying Kiro was wrecked in the Japanese waters, but Kiro fortunately was among the few who were stranded on one of the Amakusa Islands, more dead than alive.

The eleventh mission, headed by Fujiwara no Kadonemaro, left in 804. Over twenty years had passed since the capital was moved from Nara to Kyoto and the Heian Period was well under way. The heyday of the Nara Period was now a tale of the past and the air in the new capital was full of the spirit of the new age. Two famous characters went with this mission Saicho and Kukai, the far-famed founders of the Tendai and Shingon Buddhist Sects.

The twelfth and the last Kentoshi mission was sent in 838 with Fujiwara no Tsunetsugu as Chief Envoy. Signs were already visible of what may be called "Kentoshi-weariness," of which the following inauspicious incident may be considered as symptomatic. The famous poet and scholar, Ono no Takamura, had been appointed Vice-Envoy, and the ship on which he was to go had been chosen as well as the one that was to carry the Chief Envoy. The latter boat met with a mishap while she was still in harbor, so the Chief Envoy decided to go by the one on which Takamura was to sail. The damaged ship was repaired but Takamura refused to go by the unlucky boat. The authorities commanded him to go, whereupon Takamura like the proud man that he was pleaded illness and resigned. Moreover, he had written a satirical essay on the Kentoshi institution laughing at its uselessness. The Government was wroth and condemned him to death but commuting the sentence by one degree banished him to the Oki islands. On leaving the capital, Takamura left the following famous tanka (included in the Hyakunin-isshu):

Wada no hara
Yasoshima kake te
Kogi idenu to
Hito ni wa tsuge yo
Ama no tsurifune

(Were there any curious to know whither I have gone, tell him, ye anglers of the fishing craft, that I have gone out rowing to the distant sea where numerous islets lie floating.)

This was the last of the calamitous argosies to Tang, begun in 607 and it was time that they had been ended.

News and Views

Price of Peace

Professor Sir William Beveridge, in his recent book "Price of Peace," enumerates three conditions, namely, "strong nations of the world at the moment of overwhelming strength should decide to be just, should make and keep the world safe for small nations and should establish the rule of law, setting up a world organization for declaring, enforcing and revising the law between the nations. To put an end to fear among nations we must establish and enforce equal law among the nations, great and small," he says.

Sir William's suggestions, as judged from a Reuters report, are not precise nor concrete. Unless a fuller version is available, it is well-nigh impossible to pass verdict upon his opinion. But even from the scanty report in his new book, it may be safely predicted that the world will be doomed to a Hell unless and until the "have" countries give up their plan of world domination.

What is the root cause of the present war and for what are the Americans fighting? Despite all the lofty war aims announced by the Anglo-American war leaders, there is no room for doubt that American war leaders have been trying to establish Dollar Imperialism all over the world, while their British counterparts are determined to keep the British Empire and Commonwealth intact.

Whenever any "have-not" country is involved in hostilities, Anglo-American war leaders invariably denounce it as an aggression. But aggression marches, almost without exception, through three stages political, economic and military.

Secretary of State John Hay's formula for "open door and equal opportunity" in China is a glaring example of political aggression. If this formula were applied all over the world, no one could defy its justice. But when the Western Hemisphere is excluded from its application by the Monroe Doctrine, and the British Empire and Commonwealth, as an entity, builds up a strong tariff barrier around its domain, the formula becomes an instrument of Anglo-American aggression in East Asia.

The first and foremost condition of peace, therefore, is reciprocity among all nations, great or small.

Forestry Body Created

The Japan Forestry Association has been founded following absorption of two dominating associations of the kind in this country. The new Association controls all the business affairs and policy regarding forestry. Its office will be opened in Tokyo on April 20.

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ASIA AFFAIRS MINISTRY REORGANIZES STRUCTURE

Publicity Organ Established; 22 Sections Reduced to 16; Shifting Personnel

In accordance with the decision reached at the Cabinet session held on Friday, a reorganization has been effected in the structural machinery of the Greater East Asiatic Affairs Ministry, it was announced on Saturday. A feature of the latest revamp is the establishment of a Publicity Section in the General Affairs Bureau for overseas enlightenment and propaganda.

By its reorganization, the existing 22 sections of the five Bureaus of the Greater East Asiatic Affairs Ministry have been reduced to 16 sections and the Guidance Council of the General Affairs Bureau has been abolished. About one-third of the Ministry's personnel who belonged to the six sections and one council will be shifted to provincial and overseas posts.

The General Affairs Bureau now has the General Affairs, Economic Affairs, Publicity and Guidance Sections, with the Research and Investigation Sections and the Guidance Council having been abolished while the Manchoukuo Affairs Bureau will have the General Affairs, Industry and Exploitation Sections, with the Training Section abolished.

The Administrative Affairs Section of the China Affairs Bureau has been abolished with its main business shifted to outpost organs and the rest to the General Affairs Section.

The Political Affairs and Industrial-Economic Sections have been established in the Southern Regions Affairs Bureau in place of the former Administrative and Industrial Sections. The Trade Bureau now has the Planning and Supervisory Sections in place of the Export and Import Sections.

Affected Insurance Firms

The Imperial Ordinances for the establishment of the central associations for the life insurance and accident insurance companies were promulgated on Saturday together with the regulations implementing these ordinances. The Ordinances go into effect on April 1 and at the same time, these Associations will open their business.

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The Problem of Syria And Lebanon

The problem of Syria and Lebanon, although hardly yet a major world issue, has nevertheless come to deserve close attention for the complication it is creating in the relations between Britain and France. In view of the importance of Anglo-French relations in the world politics of the future, particularly in relation to Britain's hopes of including France in a British-dominated western European bloc and in relation to a possible treaty of alliance between these two countries, their conflict of policies with respect to the Levant has come to assume an importance which transcends its immediate geographic limits.

The origins of the problem go back to the spring of 1941 when a joint British and De Gaullist force, taking advantage of the collapse of France at the time of the German invasion, marched in and took possession of the French mandates of Syria and Lebanon. The British immediately tried to court the good will of the Arab population of these countries by promising them the complete independence which they had sought in vain from France for many years. Although De Gaulle was reluctant to see these French mandates slip from French hands, he was at that time in no position to demur against any British action. Hence, at the instigation of the British, General Georges Catroux, the De Gaullist commander-in-chief, was impelled to proclaim the independence and sovereignty of Syria on September 27, 1941 and of Lebanon similarly on November 26 of the same year.

Despite the proclamations, however, the De Gaullist military authorities failed to turn over their powers to the native authorities, thereby precipitating a grave crisis which was averted only when Catroux negotiated further agreements with the Syrian and Lebanese officials in December. During the following year, in accordance with these agreements, the native authorities took over the rights of taxation, police, domestic peace preservation, and border patrol, but the matter of organizing native armies was blocked by the interference of the Algiers Committee of the De Gaullist regime in June.

The impasse between the De Gaullist regime and the new governments of Syria and Lebanon has subsequently become increasingly worse. With the independence of Syria and Lebanon having been recognized by fourteen nations including Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union, the Arabs are determined that the French should impose no obstacles in the way of the full exercise of their independence. On the other hand, with the revival of French power consequent upon the establishment of the De Gaullist regime as the Provisional Government of France, the French, who had conceded independence to Syria and Lebanon only most reluctantly under British pressure, are now determined to salvage as much as they can of their former rights.

France, when De Gaulle declared in a press interview on January 25 of this year that France desires to retain a special position of preponderant influence in Syria and Lebanon, the Syrian Parliament replied the very next day by vowing that it would not adjourn until France had turned over the power of military command to the Syrian authorities. Anti-French demonstrations broke out in Damascus, while the Lebanese Government also demanded the right of control over its own army and a full diplomatic status for its representative in France. France, on the excuse that Britain enjoys treaties with Iraq and Egypt which give her a special position in those countries, seems to be aiming at the conclusion of similar treaties with Syria and Lebanon. But in view of the historic record of an unduly oppressive policy pursued by France toward Syria and Lebanon in the old days of mandate government, both the Arabs and the British fear the extent of the "special position" which France covets in the Levant.

Meanwhile both Syria and Lebanon are agitating for the immediate evacuation of the French troops, while the French Government has declared that it will maintain its troops in these countries at least until the end of the war. The French representatives in these countries are reported to have received orders that these troops are to be actively used to maintain peace and order if necessary, which has given the French press opportunity to intimidate the peoples of Syria and Lebanon with open threats of a resort to force.

In their quarrel with the French, Syria and Lebanon naturally are making strenuous efforts to enlist active British support. The Lebanese Minister to Britain, for instance, on February 5 made a comprehensive explanation to the British public of the legal positions of both Syria and Lebanon with respect to their relations with France, with other Western nations like the United States and the Soviet Union, and with kindred Arab nations. An even more direct appeal to the British public was made by the Syrian Minister to Britain who argued in the columns of the Sunday Express that Britain cannot afford to fail in guaranteeing the independence of Syria and Lebanon in view of the disastrous consequences which befell her when she failed to live up to her pledge to the Arabs at the time of the last World War, and that Britain cannot afford to remain passive in this affair since British interests in the Middle East are incomparably greater than French interests.

No doubt the British would indeed like to intervene on behalf of Syria and Lebanon, for the independence of these countries was engineered by British machination in the first place. To be sure, Britain was hardly motivated by any benevolent interest in Arab nationalism. Her real aim was to oust French influence and to cause the Syrians and Lebanese to look upon her for protection so as to facilitate the advancement of her ambition to convert the whole of the Middle East into an exclusively British sphere of influence. All the more so, however, the reassertion of French claims in that region cannot but be most unwelcome to the British.

But Britain is deterred from taking too positive a stand against France in the Middle East out of consideration for her policy on the European continent. For Britain is under the necessity of inveigling France into cooperating with her in the establishment of a pro-British western European bloc of nations, which is essential if Britain is to retain her influence over this region of such utmost vital interest so close to her homeland. France, ambitious for the restoration of her prestige and power in the central arena of European politics, is cleverly trading on her nuisance value in the Middle East to bargain for a more advantageous relationship with Britain in Europe.

Meanwhile Arab impatience with British temporizing may become as dangerously explosive as the traditional Arab hatred against the French. For the nationalistic movement among the Arabs is making a rapid advance, as evidenced by such developments as the recent Pan-Arab Conference at Cairo. The time is rapidly coming when the Arab countries will tolerate being manipulated as tools of Britain's imperial policy no more than they are now tamely submitting to France's claim to a special position.

A Year Ago Today

April 2, 1944

In the morning, a total of 26 B-24 bombers attacked our positions on Truk Island. Japanese Fighter Plane Units immediately rose to intercept the foe, shooting down eight machines (three unconfirmed) and heavily damaging three others which were observed to be enveloped in black smoke. In addition, considerable damage was dealt to several other raiders. One Japanese plane failed to return from this aerial duel.

ANTI-AXIS FOOD PROBLEM

Drastic Cut in Meat Shipments to Britain Ordered

The Washington correspondent of the Daily Telegraph reports on March 19 as follows:

Drastic cuts in Lend-Lease meat shipments to Britain were ordered on March 18. Instead of shipping 207,000,000 pounds as was ordered for the first quarter, 25,000,000 pounds will be shipped. These restrictions will force Britain to use up strategic food stocks.

America refuses to accept the British contention that until all danger of submarines or V-bombs is over reserves should be maintained. The commitments to ship to Russia 300,000,000 pounds remain unchanged.

American civilian supplies of meat have been cut by twelve per cent and army supplies have been increased four per cent. Meat for the army will be used for feeding civilians under army control. The American civilian allocation for the next quarter amounts to 3,793,000,000 pounds. Each person will receive 115 pounds a year, which will be 30 pounds less than 1944. The total supplies of meat in the United States during the second quarter will be 5,526,000,000. 1945's production will be 2,000,000,000 below 1944 and five up on 1939.

President Roosevelt, said on March 16 that the Americans would have to tighten their belts before the Germans and Japanese were finished. He was aware that there was some possible idea of reducing the American consumption. He stated that a committee had been set up to survey and authorize food exports other than military and Lend-Lease.

Leo Crowley will head the committee. He described the committee as a clearing-house for exports.

After the committee was set up a campaign was started in Congress and the press against food shipments. The War Food Administration officials said that the foreign commitments made by the State Department and the Foreign Economic Administration were ridiculous and should be revised. Roosevelt suggested that it was a question of decency and justice to accept minor restrictions in the United States to keep the people elsewhere alive.

British Made Reply

The News Chronicle correspondent in Washington stated that the stringent conditions on the continent led some time ago to suggestions in the United States that food stocks which were established in Britain when the submarine menace was more acute than it is now, might be brought down. The British reply was that stocks all along have been subject to continuous review, and they never have been allowed to become excessive and the only way would be to arrange that replacements should be guaranteed. The committee will take up this question.

The Daily Mail correspondent in Washington stated that the American food crisis arose from the following causes:

The most prominent cause was the serious overlapping of the Agencies empowered to reach into the nation's huge larder for export. The Lend-Lease Administration, Army, UNRRA and the Foreign Economic Administration have all been able to ask for food for the Allied Nations without check regardless of whatever or not requests were duplicating each other. Confusion has been added by the State Department's requests for the ear-marking of he food for the different countries and the orders placed by the French Government.

Another factor was the misjudgment of the Office of Price Administration of the length of the war. Last summer the OPA withdrew many canned goods and meat from the ration list. Now meat and canned goods are back on the ration list with more points than were ever required. But meat of all kinds is practically unobtainable in the big cities.

The Daily Mail political correspondent stated that Churchill had been in close contact with Roosevelt to obtain an agreed policy that will satisfy the needs of liberated Europe and will not unduly bear hard on Britain and the United States.

Attlee found that as regards France, efficient organization of transport would ease the food distribution. The situation in Holland is desperate. Britain had been the store house into which the United States had poured supplies for distribution on the continent. Allocations have been made on a large scale, but Britain had to warn the United States that the stocks are rapidly decreasing and in the near future it will be impossible to make further allocations without cutting the ration in Britain. Churchill told Roosevelt that he must now look after the British people and he cannot allow them to undertake further sacrifices unless they are absolutely necessary.

The Daily Herald's Washington correspondent stated that Byrnes said that the needs of the soldiers have priority and all other equipments for relief and rehabilitation and other export purposes must then be evaluated against our own minimum essential civilian economy. In other words, the Army and the Navy are first, civilians second and Europe third. It is clear that supplies for overseas may undergo a revision.

The Daily Telegraph reports that the possibility of a reduction in the meat ration has been brought nearer by the American decision. A cut from one shilling two pence in the weekly ration will be unavoidable unless extra supplies can be obtained from alternative sources. Potential source is Argentina, but shipping is not available. The British meat ration is one-fifth that of the American service man's. The Argentine Meat Board informed the Government that they would be unable to fill the March export quotas for the United Nations. It was expected that the April quotas would be short due to the diminished entry of livestock. The News Chronicle stated that Britain's total meat imports quarterly amounted to 424,000 tons, but according to last year's figures the American contribution is less than a quarter. The reduction of the ration to one shilling is possible. An official of the Food Ministry said that the Minister had nothing to add to the statement of March 16 when he said that he was striving to maintain the existing ration scales as he felt that he could not cut them any lower than at present.

MANCHOUKUO: A SUCCESS IN RACIAL EXPERIMENT

No Racial Discrimination Exists Among Five Races—Country Symbolizes Ideals of Joint Declaration

By G. MASUI

In the middle of the 18th century the thirteen American Colonies ventured upon an experiment in a democratic form of government and a democratic social life in the new and virgin soil of the Western Hemisphere. It was supposed to have been "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights—life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness." And yet this "new-born nation of democracy" was in fact based on human slavery. The birth of the American nation is inseparably bound up with the Negro slave trade and it is due to this that America's material progress was possible up to the close of the 19th century, when the slave labor came to be replaced by immigrant labor drawn from other parts of the world. Despite the principle of human rights in the Declaration of American Independence, the United States had no idea of what human equality implied. Its parent nation, Britain, not only failed to inspire her colonial nation with any idealism but actually passed on her a source of racial crime in the form of human slavery. It is thus only natural that the United States, now grown to full manhood, should be reckless in her imperialistic ventures and ready to devour the flesh of even her parent nation, Britain, not to mention her unpardonable imperialistic designs in East Asia in particular and in the world in general. What America is seeking today is only the natural culmination of her materialistic national career of imperialistic territorial expansion and of her iniquitous life of racial discrimination throughout her history of 200 years.

A Notable Success

In a sharp contrast with this reckless, ungovernable nation in the so-called New World is Manchoukuo which ventured upon its new experiment in Statehood in the 20th century—an experiment which is only comparable in its world significance with the Soviet experiment in respect to scale and magnitude. While the Soviet system has revealed what it could do by way of dispensing with the capitalistic mode of production and distribution and all that goes with such form of economic life and society and while the Soviet Union has apparently succeeded in her own work as revealed by her stupendous military power and independent diplomatic offensives by which Moscow is holding the Anglo-Americans at bay—the Empire of Manchoukuo has made its own Statehood experience such a notable success that today after the lapse of 13 years she has become one of the most prosperous, active, and vigorous nations of the world.

When Manchoukuo came into being in March, 1932, in the wake of the Manchurian Incident, the Occidental nations, with a few exceptions regarded her as a puppet of the Occident merely as a stepchild. The Chinese, too, refused to recognize her as an independent State, claiming their own sovereignty over it. The League of Nations, inspired by the hard-headed Anglo-Saxon prejudices and enmity, sent an investigation commission headed by an Englishman to the newly founded nation; showing their utter contempt and hostility towards the Asiatics in general, for the League would not have undertaken such a mission if Manchoukuo had been a Western nation. But in face of all this hostility shown by the Occidental world, Japan extended her gentle guiding hand and direction to the State of Manchoukuo, as if she had been her first-born. Today that nation has grown into a robust and virile manhood, with strong sinews and a golden heart. Instead of giving her the poison of inhumanity, as Britain did to the United States in the latter's early history, Japan imparted spiritual ideals to the young continental nation by way of assisting in the latter's national foundation and subsequent growth and development. The wholehearted and energetic support and assistance given her by Japan exercised a powerful effect in helping Manchoukuo regain her self-respect as well as confidence in her national existence. Manchoukuo was thus able to pursue her policy of racial equality, regal ways and heavenly benevolence under the benign rule of the Emperor Kangte, and, by overcoming all the difficulties attendant on the growth of a new nation, has made a steady national development on an unprecedented scale and at an amazing tempo, until today this nation has come to possess all the qualities of a great power with a vast territory, a unified system of administration and law, a population composed of five main races united in intentions and purposes, in spirit and heart, an industrial system of great potentiality and with a National Army capable of maintaining internal order and repelling any foreign aggression that may threaten her tranquillity. But what I wish to stress here is the unparalelled success with which Manchoukuo has upheld her ideal of racial equality and racial harmony.

National Play

As is known to all, the national standard of Manchoukuo is the five-color flag signifying the unity and fraternity of the five races composing its population, namely, the Manchus, Japanese, Chinese, Mongolians, and Russians. It is greatly to the credit of Manchoukuo that there has been no racial strife whatsoever within her borders since her very foundation, despite the racial diversity of her inhabitants. On the contrary, there has prevailed an intense spirit of cordiality among them in their mutual relations, in their civic affairs, and in private intercourse. There is no racial discrimination, such being simply unthinkable. The Japanese citizens of Manchoukuo, for instance, consider their allegiance to Manchoukuo as their primary duty, and have conscientiously observed the principle of racial equality in their public and private conduct and in their attitude toward other citizens of different racial stocks; and this has truly had a happy and exemplary effect on the other races within the same community.

It will be recalled that Japan proposed the adoption of racial equality at the Versailles Peace Conference, and that this proposal was flatly rejected by the Anglo-American nations; and this fact, as pointed out by H. G. Wells in his "Outline of History," was one of the most unfortunate events at the conference table. This same principle has been scrupulously observed by the Japanese in Manchoukuo and has proved one of the basic national ideals of that country. We may further boast of the fact that one of the basic ideas of the Common Prosperity Region as expounded by the Joint Declaration of the Greater East Asiatic Nations had been conscientiously practiced for more than ten years in the political and social life of Manchoukuo. What a sharp contrast this makes with the insincere idealistic profession of our enemies, the United States and Britain and with their policies and statements such as those contained in the Atlantic Charter. Thus, Manchoukuo has been happily following in the footsteps of Japan's spiritual and ideal mode of life, as might be expected in view of her indivisible relationship and destiny with the Japanese Empire.

Emperer Kangte

One should not, however, forget the big role played by the traditional idealism of the Emperor Kangte in the spiritual life of Manchoukuo. The supreme tenet of the polity of Manchoukuo is to rule the people according to the decrees of Heaven. It was by virtue of the heavenly decrees that the Emperor Kangte acceded to the throne, the Emperor deriving his sovereign rights from the same heavenly source. In this the ruler observes the principle of Wangtao of the Kingly Way of righteousness and wisdom which has been scrupulously observed by all great Oriental rulers. In China such a principle was observed by only a few great sovereigns in the dim antiquity and it has largely remained only as an ideal precept in her recorded history. So prevalent have been China's internal disturbances and her external danger in recorded history, that there was very slight possibility of such an ideal being put into actual practice. It was highly fortunate for the Emperor Kangte to find his realm an ideal environment in which to make an experiment in the political wisdom of State life handed down from far-away ages.

The spirit underlying the founda-tion of Manchoukuo, or the "spirit of the National Foundation" was elucidated by Yu Chung-han. The manifesto issued in his name in the capacity of director of the Autonomy Guidance Headquarters which was established in Mukden on November 10, 1931, reads as follows:

"We aspire to found an earthly paradise under the sun by doing away with despotism, misunderstanding, illusions, and complications. Regardless of nationality, it is our aim to influence the inhabitants of this land so that they may display their inherent spirit of mercy, and by observance of faith, by mutual respect and love, complete the divine task mentioned above. Thus will the so-called Asiatic unrest be transformed into the light of the Orient to kindle the whole world and serve as a good augury for the great and true harmony of all mankind. The devotion of every effort toward the formation of an ideal land hitherto unknown in history will in time serve to bring about the development of Asia as an entity, rectify racial discrimination, and lead toward the establishment of a world justice which shall be universally applicable."

State Proclamation

Manchoukuo's ideal of racial harmony is further revealed by its Proclamation of the Establishment of the Manchoukuo State issued in 1932. In part it said:

"There shall be no discrimination with respect to either race or creed, among those people who now reside within the territory of the new State."

The existence of the Manchoukuo Concordia Society which is the largest civic organization in that country further testifies to Manchoukuo's idealism in racial harmony. This Society is devoted to the attainment of the common object of building up an ideal State. Its members are composed of persons from all ranks of society, including officials, lawyers, merchants, peasants, and workmen. Its aspirations are:

1. To exalt the spirit of the national foundation.
2. To achieve racial harmony.
3. To elevate the national life.
4. To convey the will of the Government thoroughly to the people and to transmit the will of the people fully to the Government.
5. To bring about complete national mobilization.

For some years following the establishment of Manchoukuo, Japan had to extend her care and assistance to that country in various forms to enable her to make her national development. We had to supply her with capital, industrial technique, and leadership, and we guarded her very independence against external dangers. But Manchoukuo has now shown what she has attained in this interval. After a lapse of 13 years she is not only able to enjoy her full-fledged State life, but she has become a powerful industrial nation, assisting Japan, her benefactor, very materially just at the time when the latter needs the unfailing assistance of that rising nation in waging East Asia's stupendous war against the Anglo-American countries.

Manchoukuo today has a population of about 40,000,000 souls, the households numbering more than 6,500,000. Her male population is greater than her female population, while the percentage of her farming population is over 60 per cent. This indicates that the country enjoys a high degree of food production and is thus capable of supplying Japan with farm products to a great extent, not to mention her enormous capacity for supplying other important materials such as iron, steel, coal, and various metals, all of which are essential for the war industries. Moreover, being about one-fourth the size of the United States, Manchoukuo is capable of becoming a veritable supply depot in East Asia's stupendous struggle for emancipation. In view of the frequent raids by the enemy bombers on the Japanese mainland, the Manchoukuo Government has recently decided to undertake to accommodate industrial plants from Japan in order to assure the future supply of munitions. As soon as this plan is put into practice, the enemy's air raids on our mainland will not be able to affect our war industries to any great extent, and we shall be enabled to continue the war for an indefinite period of time.

Manchoukuo realizes that she must rise or fall together with Japan and, for that matter, with all the other members of the Common Prosperity Region in this war. Her present national power and prosperity must be an object of envy for the so-called "liberated nations" of Europe, such as France, Belgium, Italy, and Greece, all of which, since they came under the sway of the enemy nations are now subjected to unspeakable misery and starvation. But the future of Manchoukuo, unlike that of these "liberated" countries, is bright. The righteous are bound to get their just reward. Manchoukuo is receiving dividends today for her solution of her racial problem. She is the first nation which has succeeded in a racial experiment on such a large scale.

Evolution

Judge: "Your profession?"
Witness: "Agricultural expert."
"What was your father?"
"A farmer."
"And your grandfather."
"A peasant."

RYUSHI KAWABATA, HIS ART AND LIFE

Painter Believes Experience Is The Cornerstone of Creative Art

By H. KUWAHARA

I

It has been said that when Goethe was born the stars in heaven had grown visibly brighter and that the Sun had moved up to the Virgo and held open communion with her. The celestial realm, both diurnally and nocturnally, had been illumined with light and loveliness.

But if anyone's nativity was as contrary to the heavenly glorification as that bestowed upon Goethe's certainly it was Shotaro's. Nothing could have been as uneventful, if not as abject. "The stars seemed as if to wince and to cease twinkling. In fact, the whole earth was thought to become another moon, a cold, dark, solid planet."

Born in a chaste village in Wakayama Prefecture, Shotaro (Ryushi) was deprived of the most natural and common of pleasures that is given to a Japanese boy to enjoy. Annually, on May 5, there is observed in the country what is known as the Iris Festival for boys. It is a festival when the whole nation joins in feting the healthy and unstinted growth of the future heroes of the nation. Carp streamers made of paper and painted red are flown in the breeze on tall bamboo poles.

To what extent the Kawabata family had been in financial straits, it is not for us to conjecture, but, at any rate, Shotaro's housetop was unadorned of this carp streamer. Peering out of the window, his sole consolement was to gaze at other streamers flying heroically in the early summer breeze.

But, later, he was to find another consolement. This was to watch the lantern-maker make the streamers. Going to school in the morning, he would see the lantern-maker sketching carp on white paper. In the afternoon, coming home from school, these carp would be chromatized in red and black, ready to be flown at anyone's disposal. It was all a vast mystery to Shotaro. The lantern-maker was a magician. Out of a blank sheet of paper was born the prettiest of carp in the world. It was a wonderful creation, and the man who was responsible for this marvel could be no ordinary man. He was a magician, who produced things out of a void.

Acute Perception Fostered

As to envy another is to wish to be like the other, Shotaro's next step in the line of self-absorption was to be found in imitating the lantern-maker at home on scraps of unwanted paper. He made innumerable trips to and from the lantern-shop, peered intensively through the latticed window, noted the peculiarities of the different lines and shades of the pretty carp, and thus only, after taking days, was he able to finish a carp of his own. In his mind did not occur the expedient of making sketches of the carp at the spot, and this habit of doing without sketches on paper was to adhere to him until later days. Sketchings were done, instead, in his mind. It is this which is one of the characteristics of Ryushi, today. This faculty of acute and indelible perception of the essential of the essentialities of an object was fostered in him from early boyhood.

As is vividly manifest in "The Tapestry of Carp" (1930), his love for the fish was deeply engraved in his heart from childhood. One of his specialities has been the painting of the koi or carp, but this was invariably done with no mean exertion of artistic skill and passion comprising both a deep love for the fish, symbolizing a virile vitality, and childhood reminiscences. It is interesting to note that "The Tapestry," as its author has revealed, was motivated when recalling his earlier days in Wakayama he suddenly gazed out into his backyard and saw the grass swaying wildly in a gust of wind. Immediately in his mind's eye was associated a similar swirl of motion made by a shoal of carp in water.

But to go back to Ryushi as Shotaro, it was when he was ten years old that, one day, he was asked by his father to make a copy of a buggy route through the local district. The map shoved before him had an inimical appearance in the eyes of Shotaro. It was entirely different in structure from what he had by now been accustomed, to drawing in the carp. Sure enough, once launched on it, he found it infinitely more difficult than drawing a carp. To draw the buggy route required geometric accuracy and an objective perception. After taking hours, torturing himself into tears, the boy at last emerged from his room, having made an utter mess of the job.

But, the experiment had been an instructive one. He had loved to draw the carp from sheer love of the act, but in the case of the map, it was something that he was obliged to do involuntarily. The diagram had not impressed him at all. But, Shotaro was to realize once and for all that the drawing of the map was just as much a necessity as that of the carp. "It was when I had to draw the map that I first awoke to the reality, upon reflection, that there was much on earth that one must do in spite of the fact that it does not take one's fancy."

In 1895, when Shotaro was eleven years old, the family was compelled to remove to Tokyo, from vocational change. But this removal did not alter the fact that Shotaro's life continued to be sombre. His parents were obliged to remain away from home, immersed in business at a hospital.

As the ancient Chinese poet, Pai Chu-i, of the Tang Dynasty, has had it in a poem entitled, "The Troubles of Life," it is not in the flow of the waters nor in the incline of the hills that lie the thorns of life, but in the rub of human affection, in its discrepancies. This did Shotaro realize when he was compelled to live apart from his parents. But, he bore no grudge against them. In fact, his love for them was enhanced in proportion to his awakening to the ironies of life. In his little heart was rooted a deep resolve in finding ways to rid such circumstances from befalling on others. What to do, so that a family would not have to live apart as his did.

Inclined to Meditation

As he grew on in years, he became more inclined to meditation. A "second mother," so to speak, was sent to the house in which Shotaro lived, to dispel with the daily chores. Having little to do, she opened up a tobacco-shop in a nook of the house. Here it was that after returning from school, Shotaro absorbed himself in the drawing of the illustrations, one by one, found in the Japanese-English Dictionary that they used at the middle school.

Shotaro did not have any definite object in drawing the illustrations. It was a self-imposed task.

Besides this routine work, there was another which he diligently followed early each morning. This was to sweep the front yard. It was, of course, a monotonous job. But in this, too, he was presently to find much that was delightful as well as instructive for the career in which he was to enter in the years to come. He presently discovered that the broom could work as great a marvel as the pencil. On the sand was inscribed all kinds of designs, arabesque and grotesque. And, today, we find the back garden at his home patterned to the designs he had etched on the sand in those early days of dreaming.

It was not long after his diverse experiments on the sand that he became absorbed in the frontispieces of foreign magazines. At first, he took to making faithful copies of them. Then he proceeded to draw pictures of his own concoction. These pictures of his own invention were not to be waived aside as being merely fantastic creations. His method was always to associate thought with actual life. He dreamed of purchasing the entire block in which he lived and of making each of the houses into different stores selling varying commodities, much in the fashion that the modern-day department stores have turned out to be.

But thus far, Shotaro had not so much as dreamed of becoming an artist in future. Nothing purposive had entered his mind as to what he was to set as his life work. He had drawn the carp, the figures on the sand, and the pictorial illustrations only from pure delight and joy in drawing.

Turning Point

The turning point in his life came when he submitted a series of thirty paintings entitled collectively as "The Meiji Era in Pictures," two of which were selected as winners by the Yomiuri Shimbun which had sponsored the contest. This had been Shotaro's first attempt at anything drastic in the way of painting.

Inspired by the trifling honor conferred upon him, he quit middle school in his fourth year and decided to journey to America. But this ending in a failure, he entered an art-school against his father's wishes.

Ever since has the creation of Ryushi, afforded many surprises to the art-critics. His development has been flighty in proportion as his life in the making had been none too blessed. The varying miseries that he has had to undergo has confirmed Ryushi that it is experience that is the cornerstone of all man's thoughts and creations.

Ryushi is well aware of the faults in his art. "But, it is not the faults that I am concerned with. It is always the improvements that usurp my mind." It is true, what one in modern days is too often concerned with are more the faults of one's work rather than the improvements that must be called to attention. As all great artists of the past and present, and of the East and West have said, "one's faults must be transcended for higher things."

"What matters, if a work one produces next is better and higher than the one previously done," is Ryushi's conviction. "I have never ceased thinking and working. When I am finished with a work, it is in the next that I live. In fact, nothing can be finished in the absolute sense of the term. What we do is a perpetual continuation of what we have already done. It is work, work and work that keeps life rolling. With each failure and with each new attempt something better and higher is produced."

(To Be Concluded)